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COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE LT. GOVERNOR

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May 30, 2007

JUN 13 2007

Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Room 8-B201
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

I understand that the FCC is considering placing a cap on the Universal Service Fund (USF). I would be opposed if this cap singled out wireless technology. Rural Americans deserve the same access to telecom services that are available in the rest of the country. Limiting the growth of the USF and/or unfairly targeting wireless technology in any cap would not provide the same opportunity for economic growth as their urban counterparts.

Rural consumers across the state of Kentucky want and need expanded and improved wireless services. Services that are beneficial for public safety, economic development, and business and personal needs. These are the benefits that Congress must have envisioned when it initially established the USF. Consumers deserve and need a competitive marketplace and a cap on these funds would narrow or prevent them from making choices.

I am aware that there are growing concerns regarding controlling the UFS, so I implore you to consider reforms that are fair and equitable to all providers: explore competitively neutral proposals to slow the USF growth, improve accountability, and above all continue producing policy for expanding and promoting telecom services in rural parts of the states.

Sincerely,

Stephen B. Pence
Lieutenant Governor
Commonwealth of Kentucky

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